

PER

2. To pass through the whole extension.
Matter, once bereaved of motion, cannot of itself acquire it again, nor till it be struck by some other body from without, or be intrinsically moved by an immaterial self-active substance, that can penetrate and pervade it. *Bentley.*
What but God?
Pervades, adjusts and agitates the whole. *Thomson.*
PERVASION. *n. f.* [from *pervade*.] The act of pervading or passing through.
If fusion be made rather by the ingress and transcurfions of the atoms of fire, than by the bare propagation of that motion, with which fire beats upon the outside of the vessels, that contain the matter to be melted; both those kinds of fluidity, ascribed to saltpetre, will appear to be caused by the *pervasion* of a foreign body. *Boyle.*
PERVERSE. *adj.* [from *pervertus*, Lat.]
1. Distorted from the right.
And nature breeds
Perverse, all monstrous, all prodigious things. *Milton.*
2. Obfitinate in the wrong; stubborn; untractable.
Then for the testimony of truth halt born
Universal reproach; far worse to bear
Than violence; for this was all thy care
To stand approv'd in sight of God, though worlds
Judg'd thee *perverse*. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
To so *perverse* a sex all grace is vain,
It gives them courage to offend again. *Dryden.*
3. Petulant; vexatious.
Oh gentle Romeo,
If thou dost love, pronounce it faithfully,
Or if you think I am too quickly won,
I'll frown and be *perverse*, and say thee nay,
So thou wilt woo: but else not for the world. *Shakesp.*
PERVERSELY. *adv.* [from *perverse*.] With intent to vex;
peevishly; vexatiously; spitefully; crossly; with petty malignity.
Men *perverse*ly take up piques and displeasures at others,
and then every opinion of the disliked person must partake of his fate. *Decay of Piety.*
Men that do not *perverse*ly use their words, or on purpose set themselves to cavil, seldom mistake the signification of the names of simple ideas. *Locke.*
A patriot is a dangerous post,
When wanted by his country most,
*Perverse*ly comes in evil times,
Where virtues which are imputed crimes. *Swift.*
PERVERSENESS. *n. f.* [from *perverse*.]
1. Petulance; peevishness; spiteful crossness.
A wholesome tongue is a tree of life; *perverse*ness therein is a breach in the spirit. *Proverbs xv. 4.*
Virtue hath some *perverse*ness; for she will
Neither believe her good, nor others ill. *Donne.*
He whom he wishes most, shall seldom gain
Through her *perverse*ness; but shall see her gain'd
By a far worse. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
The *perverse*ness of my fate is such,
That he's not mine, because he's mine too much. *Dryden.*
When a friend in kindness tries
To shew you where your error lies,
Conviction does but more incense;
*Perverse*ness is your whole defence. *Swift.*
2. Perversion; corruption. Not in use.
Neither can this be meant of evil governors or tyrants;
for they are often established as lawful potentates; but of some *perverse*ness and defection in the very nation itself. *Bacon.*
PERVERSION. *n. f.* [from *pervertus*, Fr. from *perverse*.] The act of perverting; change to something worse.
Women to govern men, slaves freemen, are much in the same degree; all being total violations and *perversions* of the laws of nature and nations. *Bacon.*
He supposes that whole reverend body are so far from disliking popery, that the hopes of enjoying the abbey lands would be an effectual incitement to their *perversion*. *Swift.*
PERVERT. *v. a.* [from *pervertus*, Fr. from *perverse*.] *Pervert*ness; crossness.
What strange *pervert*ity is this of man!
When 'twas a crime to taste th' lightning tree,
He could not then his hand refrain. *Norris.*
To **PERVERT**. *v. a.* [from *pervertus*, Lat. *pervertit*, Fr.]
1. To distort from the true end or purpose.
Instead of good they may work ill, and *pervert* justice to extreme injustice. *Spenser's State of Ireland.*
If thou seest the oppression of the poor, and violent *perverting* of justice in a province, marvel not. *Ecclesi. v. 8.*
If then his providence
Out of our evil seek to bring forth good,
Our labour must be to *pervert* that end,
And out of good still to find means of evil. *Milton.*
He has *perverted* my meaning by his glosses; and interpreted my words into blasphemy, of which they were not guilty. *Dryden.*

PES

Porphyry has wrote a volume to explain this cave of the nymphs with more piety than judgment; and another person has *perverted* it into obscenity; and both allegorically. *Broom.*
2. To corrupt; to turn from the right; opposed to convert, which is to turn from the wrong to the right.
The heinous and despicable act
Of Satan, done in Paradise, and how
He in the serpent had *perverted* Eve,
Her husband the, to taste the fatal fruit,
Was known in heav'n. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
PERVERTER. *n. f.* [from *pervert*.]
1. One that changes any thing from good to bad; a corrupter.
Where a child finds his own parents his *perverters*, he cannot be so properly born, as damned into the world. *South.*
2. One who distorts any thing from the right purpose.
He that reads a prohibition in a divine law, had need be well satisfied about the sense he gives it, lest he incur the wrath of God, and be found a *perverter* of his law. *Stillings.*
PERVERTIBLE. *adj.* [from *pervert*.] That may be easily perverted.
PERVICACIOUS. *adj.* [from *pervixax*, Lat.] Spitefully obfitinate; peevishly contumacious.
May private devotions be efficacious upon the mind of one of the most *pervicacious* young creatures! *Clarissa.*
PERVICACIOUSLY. *adv.* [from *pervicacious*.] With spiteful obfitinacy.
PERVICACIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *pervicacia*, Lat. from *pervicax*.] Spiteful obfitinacy.
PERVICACY. *n. f.* [from *pervicacia*.]
PERVIOUS. *adj.* [from *pervius*, Latin.]
1. Admitting passage; capable of being permeated.
The Egyptians used to say, that unknown darkness is the first principle of the world; by darkness they mean God, whose secrets are *pervious* to no eye. *Taylor.*
Leda's twins
Conspicuous both, and both in act to throw
Their trembling lances brandish'd at the foe,
Nor had they mis'd; but he to thickets fled,
Conceal'd from aiming spears, not *pervious* to the steel. *Dryden.*
Those lodged in other earth, more lax and *pervious*, decayed in tract of time, and rotted at length. *Woodward.*
2. Pervading; permeating. This sense is not proper.
What is this little, agile, *pervious* fire,
This fluttring motion which we call the mind? *Prior.*
PERVIOUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *pervious*.] Quality of admitting a passage.
The *pervious*ness of our receiver to a body much more subtle than air, proceeded partly from the looser texture of that glass the receiver was made of, and partly from the enormous heat, which opened the pores of the glass. *Boyle.*
There will be found another difference besides that of *pervious*ness. *Holler's Elements of Speech.*
PERUKE. *n. f.* [from *peruque*, Fr.] A cap of false hair; a perwig I put him on a linen cap, and his *peruke* over that. *Wijeman.*
To **PERUKE**. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To dress in adititious hair.
PERUKEMAKER. *n. f.* [from *peruke* and *maker*.] A maker of perukes; a wigmaker.
PERUSAL. [from *peruse*.] The act of reading.
As pieces of miniature must be allowed a closer inspection, so this treatise requires application in the *perusal*. *Woodward.*
If upon a new *perusal* you think it is written in the very spirit of the ancients, it deserves your care, and is capable of being improved. *Atterbury.*
To **PERUSE**. *v. a.* [from *peruse*.] To read.
Peruse this writing here, and thou shalt know
The treason. *Shakesp. Richard II.*
The petitions being thus prepared, do you constantly set apart an hour in a day to *peruse* those petitions. *Bacon.*
Carefully observe, whether he tastes the distinguishing perfections or the specifick qualities of the author whom he *peruses*. *Addison's Spectator, N° 409.*
2. To observe; to examine.
I hear the enemy;
Out some light horsemen, and *peruse* their wings. *Shakesp.*
I've *perus'd* her well;
Beauty and honour in her are so mingled,
That they have caught the king. *Shakesp.*
Myself I then *perus'd*, and limb by limb
Survey'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
PERUSER. *n. f.* [from *peruse*.] A reader; examiner.
The difficulties and hesitations of every one will be according to the capacity of each *peruser*, and as his penetration into nature is greater or less. *Woodward.*
PESADE. *n. f.*
Pesade is a motion a horse makes in raising or lifting up his forequarters, keeping his hind legs upon the ground without stirring. *Farrier's Dict.*

PES

PESARY. *n. f.* [from *pesarie*, Fr.] Is an oblong form of medicine, made to thrust up into the uterus upon some extraordinary occasions.
Of cantharides he prescribes five in a *pesary*, cutting off their heads and feet, mixt with myrrh. *Arbutnot.*
PEST. *n. f.* [from *peste*, Fr. *pestis*, Lat.]
1. Plague; pestilence.
Let fierce Achilles
The god propitiate, and the *pest* assuage. *Pope.*
2. Any thing mischievous or destructive.
The *pest* a virgin's face and bosom bears,
High on her crown a rising snake appears,
Guards her black front, and hisses in her hairs. *Pope.*
At her words the hellish *pest*
Forbore. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Of all virtues justice is the best;
Valour without it is a common *pest*. *Waller.*
To **PESTER**. *v. a.* [from *pester*, Fr.]
1. To disturb; to perplex; to harass; to turmoil.
Who then shall blame
His *pester'd* senses to recoil and start,
When all that is within him does condemn
Itself for being there. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
He hath not fail'd to *pester* us with messengers,
Importing the surrender of those lands. *Shakespeare.*
We are *pestered* with mice and rats, and to this end the cat is very serviceable. *More's Antidote against Atheism.*
They did so much *pester* the church and grossly delude the people, that contradictions themselves asserted by Rabbits were equally revered by them as the infallible will of God. *South's Sermons.*
A multitude of scribblers daily *pester* the world with their insufferable stuff. *Dryden.*
At home he was *pester'd* with noise;
Abroad was *pester'd* by the boys. *Swift.*
2. To encumber.
Fitches and pease
For *pestering* too much on a hovel they lay.
Confin'd and *pester'd* in this pinfold here,
Strive to keep up a frail and feverish being. *Milton.*
PESTERER. *n. f.* [from *pester*.] One that pesters or disturbs.
PESTERING. *adj.* [from *pester*.] Encumbering; cumbersome.
In the statute against vagabonds note the dislike the parliament had of goaling them, as that which was chargeable, *pesterous*, and of no open example. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
PESTHOUSE. *n. f.* [from *pest* and *house*.] An hospital for persons infected with the plague.
PESTIFEROUS. *adj.* [from *pestifer*, Lat.]
1. Destructive; mischievous.
Such is thy audacious wickedness,
Thy leud, *pestiferous* and dissentious pranks,
The very infants prattle of thy pride.
You, that have discover'd secrets, and made such *pestiferous* reports of men nobly held, must die. *Shakesp.*
2. Pestilential; malignant; infectious.
It is easy to conceive how the steams of *pestiferous* bodies taint the air, while they are alive and hot. *Arbutnot.*
PESTILENCE. *n. f.* [from *pestilencia*, Lat.] Plague; pest; contagious distemper.
The red *pestilence* strike all trades in Rome,
And occupations perish. *Shakesp.*
When my eyes beheld Olivia first,
Methought she purg'd the air of *pestilence*. *Shakesp.*
PESTILENT. *adj.* [from *pestilent*, Fr. *pestilens*, Lat.]
1. Producing plague; malignant.
Great ringing of bells in populous cities dissipated *pestilent* air, which may be from the concussion of the air, and not from the sound. *Bacon's Natural History.*
To those people that dwell under or near the equator, a perpetual spring would be a most *pestilent* and insupportable summer. *Bentley's Sermons.*
2. Mischievous; destructive.
There is nothing more contagious and *pestilent* than some kinds of harmony; than some nothing more strong and potent unto good. *Hooker, b. v. f. 38.*
Hoary moulded bread the soldiers thrusting upon their spears raised against king Ferdinand, who with such corrupt and *pestilent* bread would feed them. *Knolles.*
Which president, of *pestilent* import,
Against thee, Henry, had been brought.
The world abounds with *pestilent* books, written against this doctrine. *Daniel.*
3. In ludicrous language, it is used to exaggerate the meaning of another word.
One *pestilent* fine,
His beard no bigger though than thine,
Walked on before the rest. *Suckling.*
PESTILENTIAL. *adj.* [from *pestilential*, Fr. *pestilens*, Lat.]
1. Partaking of the nature of pestilence; producing pestilence; infectious; contagious.
These with the air passing into the lungs, infect the mass of blood, and lay the foundation of *pestilential* fevers. *Woodw.*

PET

Fire involv'd
In *pestilential* vapours, stench and smogk. *Addison.*
2. Mischievous; destructive; pernicious.
If government depends upon religion, then this shews the *pestilential* design of those that attempt to disjoin the civil and ecclesiastical interests. *South's Sermons.*
PETILENTLY. *adv.* [from *pestilent*.] Mischievously; destructively.
PETILLATION. *n. f.* [from *petillum*, Lat.] The act of pounding or breaking in a mortar.
The best diamonds are comminable, and so far from breaking hammers, that they submit unto *petillation*, and resist not any ordinary *pettle*. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*
PETILE. *n. f.* [from *petillum*, Lat.] An instrument with which any thing is broken in a mortar.
What real alteration can the beating of the *pettle* make in any body, but of the texture of it. *Locke.*
Upon our vegetable food the teeth and jaws act as the *pettle* and mortar. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
PETILE OF PORK. *n. f.* A gammon of bacon. *Dimf.*
PET. *n. f.* [This word is of doubtful etymology; from *despit*, Fr. or *impetus*, Lat. perhaps it may be derived some way from *petit*, as it implies only a little fume or fret.]
1. A slight passion; a slight fit of anger.
If all the world
Should in a *pet* of temperance feed on pulse,
Drink the clear stream, and nothing wear but freeze,
Th' all-giver would be unthankt, would be unprais'd. *Milton.*
If we cannot obtain every vain thing we ask, our next business is to take *pet* at the refusal. *L'Estrange.*
Life, given for noble purposes, must not be thrown up in a *pet*, nor whined away in love. *Collier.*
They cause the proud their visits to delay,
And send the godly in a *pet* to pray. *Pope.*
2. A lamb taken into the house, and brought up by hand. A caded lamb. [Probably from *petit*, little.] *Hammer.*
PETAL. *n. f.* [from *petalum*, Latin.]
Petal is a term in botany, signifying those fine coloured leaves that compose the flowers of all plants: whence plants are distinguished into monopetalous, whose flower is one continued leaf; tripetalous, pentapetalous and polypetalous, when they consist of three, five or many leaves. *Quincy.*
PETALOUS. *adj.* [from *petal*.] Having petals.
PETAR. *n. f.* [from *petard*, Fr. *petardo*, Italian.]
PETARD. *n. f.*
A *petard* is an engine of metal, almost in the shape of an hat, about seven inches deep, and about five inches over at the mouth: when charged with fine powder well beaten, it is covered with a madder or plank, bound down fast with ropes, running through handles, which are round the rim near the mouth of it: this *petard* is applied to gates or barriers of such places as are designed to be surprized, to blow them up; they are also used in countermines to break through into the enemies galleries. *Military Dict.*
'Tis the sport to have the engineer
Hoist with his own *petar*. *Shakespeare's Hamlet.*
Find all his having and his holding,
Reduc'd t' eternal noise and scolding;
The conjugal *petard* that tears
Down all portcullises of cars. *Hudibras.*
PETECHIAL. *adj.* [from *petechia*, Lat.] Pestilentially spotted.
In London are many fevers with buboes and carbuncles, and many *petechial* or spotted fevers. *Arbutnot.*
PETTER-WORT. *n. f.* This plant differs from St. John's-wort, only in having a pyramidal seed-vessel, divided into five cells. *Miller.*
PETIT. *adj.* [French.] Small; inconsiderable.
By what small *petit* hints does the mind recover a vanishing notion? *South's Sermons.*
PETITION. *n. f.* [from *petitio*, Latin.]
1. Request; intreaty; supplication; prayer.
We must propose unto all men certain *petitions* incident and very material in causes of this nature. *Hooker.*
My next poor *petition*
Is, that his noble grace would have some pity
Upon my wretched women. *Shakesp.*
Let my life be given at my *petition*, and my people at my request. *Esler vii. 3.*
Thou didst choose this house to be called by thy name, and to be a house of prayer and *petition* for thy people. *1 Mac. vii.*
2. Single branch or article of a prayer.
Then pray'd that the might still possess his heart,
And no pretending rival share a part;
This last *petition* heard of all her pray'r. *Dryden.*
To **PETITION**. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To solicit; to supplicate.
You have *petition'd* all the gods
For my prosperity. *Shakesp. Coriolanus.*
The mother *petitioned* her goddess to bestow upon them the greatest gift that could be given. *Addison.*